

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 06884 112203Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-02 MCT-01 AGRE-00 DHA-02

EB-07 AF-10 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ACDA-07 TRSE-00

OMB-01 /134 W

-----011856 120010Z /72

R 112047Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8348

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 6884

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UN, VE, US

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS- REQUEST FOR MULTILATERAL
INFORMATION - VENEZUELA

REF: STATE 159747, STATE 148782, 76 CARACAS 10999,
76 CARACAS 9590, 76 CARACAS 2354, 76 STATE 37591

1. GENERAL COMMENTS OF 76 CARACAS REFTELS CONTINUE TO APPLY
TO VENEZUELA'S POSITION AT THE UN AND IN MULTILATERAL AGENCIES.
HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME SHIFTS IN EMPHASIS DURING THE
LAST YEAR YEAR. THEREFORE, WE ARE UPDATING OUR RESPONSES TO THE
QUESTIONS POSED IN PARA. 7 OF 76 STATE 37591. RESPONSES
ARE KEYED TO LETTERED SUB-PARAGRAPHS OF THAT TEL:

(A) VENEZUELA'S PRINCIPAL MULTILATERAL INTEREST WILL
CONTINUE TO CENTER ON MAINTENANCE OF OPEC AND COHESIVENESS
OF LDC POSITIONS REGARDING THE NIEO AND THE NORTH-SOUTH
DIALOGUE. HOWEVER, THE PEREZ STATE VISIT TO THE U.S. AND
THE COMPLETION OF CIEC HAVE ADDED A NEW DIMENSION TO ITS
NORTH-SOUTH ROLE. THEREFORE, WE EXPECT VENEZUELA TO WORK
DILIGENTLY IN NEW YORK BOTH WITH THE LDCS AND WITH
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PAGE 02 CARACA 06884 112203Z

THE G-8 TO FLESH OUT A NEW MECHANISM TO CARRY ON THE WORK
OF CIEC. IN ORGANIZATIONAL TERMS, THIS IS PROBABLY THE
GOV'S NUMBER ONE MULTILATERAL PRIORITY. GOV WILL ALSO FOCUS
ATTENTION ON ANTI-TERRORISM MEASURES (ALTHOUGH IT MAY NOT
INITIATE SUCH AN EFFORT ITSELF), PRESS HARD FOR APPROVAL
OF A UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER, AND DEPENDING ON DC RESPONSES,
MIGHT AGREE TO SUPPORT THE ECOSOC ILLICIT PAYMENTS CONVENTION

INITIATIVE IF THE DCS AGREE TO FURTHER CONCRETE STEPS ON AN INTERNATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TNCS.

VENEZUELA WILL ALSO BE CAREFUL TO AVOID POLITICAL CONFRONTATION WITH DCS WHICH COULD NEGATIVELY AFFECT ITS GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE MAJOR DCS, PARTICULARLY THE U.S. IT WILL PREACH MODERATION ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE, BUT ABSTAIN ON THIS ISSUE BECAUSE OF ITS OPEC TIES.

(B) GOV POLICY-MAKING REMAINS INFLUENCED BY ITS OBJECTIVES OF MAINTAINING OPEC PRICE UNITY, LATIN AMERICAN SOLIARITY AND G-77 CONSENSUS. HOWEVER, THE SCHISM BETWEEN MILITARY-DOMINATED LATIN REGIMES AND THE FEW LATIN AMERICAN DEMOCRACIES HAS ALREADY REDUCED VENEZUELA'S COMMITMENT TO LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL UNITY IN TOTO. THUS ON THE ISSUES OF TERRORISM, HUMAN RIGHTS, NON-PROLIFERATION AND OTHER MULTILATERAL ISSUES WHERE IT SHARES MUCH IN COMMON WITH US IT HAS ALREADY BROKEN WITH MANY OF ITS FELLOW LATINS (OAS GRENADA MEETING) AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO TAKE SIMILAR POSITIONS IN THE UN ON THESE ITEMS. IT WILL CONTINUE TO PAY ATTENTION TO SAUDI ARABIA, IRAN (AS MAJOR OPEC POWERS), AND CONSULT WITH PRESTIGIOUS NEUTRALS SUCH AS AUSTRIA AND YUGOSLAVIA. IT WILL COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH COLOMBIA AND COSTA RICA ON THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER PROPOSAL.

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PAGE 03 CARACA 06884 112203Z

(C) AND (D) NO CHANGE FROM 76 REFTEL.

(E) THE GOV IS OPEN TO OUR SUGGESTIONS, BUT OFTEN IS NOT FULLY INFORMED ON DETAILS OF SPECIFIC ISSUES. AS NOTED 76 RESPONSE TO THIS QUESTION, GOV DOES NOT EMOTIONALLY ACCEPT THAT INTERACTION ON THESE ISSUES IS A TWO-WAY STREET AND AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. ON LOS AND NORTH-SOUTH, WE HAVE CONTINUED TO HAVE RATHER CLOSER WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOV ON THESE ISSUES THAN ON OTHERS, BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE AND EXPERTISE OF ANDRES AGUILAR AND PEREZ GUERRERO RESPECTIVELY. ON HUMAN RIGHTS, TERRORISM, AND NON-PROLIFERATION ISSUES, MOREOVER, WE MIGHT ALSO EXPECT SOME CONSULTATION WITH US THIS YEAR, PROBABLY THROUGH USUN RATHER THAN THE EMBASSY.

2. ON OTHER ISSUES DISCUSSED STATE 148782, WE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

--UN BUDGET CONTROL- GOV TO OUR KNOWLEDGE HAS TAKEN NO POSITION, BUT PROBABLY WOULD BE AMENABLE TO OUR VIEWS.

--UN STRUCTURAL ISSUES- GOV WILL BE HESITANT TO SUPPORT ANY INITIATIVES WHICH MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS REDUCING THE

INFLUENCE OF THE G-77,ALTHOUGH MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
ADMIT PRIVATELY THAT THE SYSTEM IS BADLY IN NEED OF AN OVERHAUL.

--UN SPECIALIZED AGENCY ISSUES - HERE, ON THE ILO ISSUE,
THE GOV LET US DOWN BADLY BY VOTING AGAINST THE U.S. POSITION,
AFTER VIRTUALLY ASSURING US OF ITS SUPPORT. IT IS NOT CLEAR
WHETHER THIS WAS DUE TO POOR COORDINATION, OR, MORE LIKELY,
A BASIC LACK OF CONCERN ABOUT THIS ISSUE FROM THE POINT OF
VIEW OF THE VENEZUELAN NATIONAL INTEREST. GIVEN
VENEZUELA'S GENERALLY MODERATE SANCE, AND ITS CONFLICTING
INTERESTS INVOLVED IN OPEC MEMBERSHIP, AND ITS IDEOLOGICAL,
COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL TIES TO THE WEST, IT IS UNLIKELY
THAT THE GOV WILL ACTIVELY SUPPORT DEPOLITIZATION OF
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, PARTICULARLY IF THE POLITICAL ISSUE
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PAGE 04 CARACA 06884 112203Z

INVOLVED CONCERNS THE ARABS (VIZ, THE ILO CASE). SIMPLY PUT,
WHILE THEY WILL TELL US PRIVATELY THEY REMAIN NEUTRAL
ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE, THEY WILL NOT VOTE AGAINST THE
ARABS FOR FEAR OF JEOPARDIZING OPEC UNITY.

3. EMBASSY'S MLO IS POLITICAL COUNSELOR MYLES R.R. FRECHETTE.
VAKY

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